

**A NEW SPECIES OF *THEMARA* WALKER (DIPTERA:  
TEPHRITIDAE: ACANTHONEYRINI) FROM THE INDIAN  
ANDAMAN ISLANDS**

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**Abstract**

*Themara andamanensis* sp. n. is described from the Andaman Islands, India. A note on the female of *Themara hirsuta* (Perkins) is included and the species is newly recorded from Sabah, East Malaysia.

**Introduction**

The genus *Themara* Walker currently contains nine species of log-breeding fruit flies that often have the male head expanded into distinctive ‘eye stalks’. The genus is widespread in Southeast Asia, being recorded from India and southern China to the Philippines, Borneo and western Indonesia. The species were reviewed and keyed by Hancock (2011), with additional notes provided by Hancock (2013, 2014). This paper describes a new species from the Andaman Islands and discusses the previously unrecorded female of *T. hirsuta* (Perkins), both resulting from a recent examination of unsorted material in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH).

***Themara andamanensis* sp. n.**

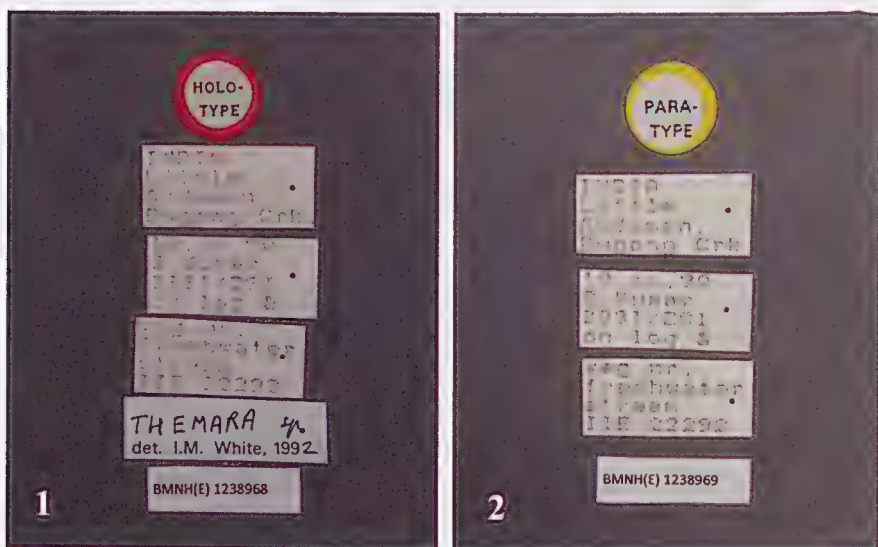
(Figs 1-5)

*Types.* *Holotype* ♂, INDIA (ANDAMAN ISLANDS): Little Andaman, Dugong Crk, 10.ix.[19]90, S. Kumar, on log & veg. nr freshwater stream, IIE 22292 (Fig. 1). *Paratype* ♀, same data as holotype (Fig. 2) (both in BMNH).

*Description.* Male (Figs 3-4). Length of body 7 mm, of wing 7.5 mm. Head much wider than long, the frons expanded laterally into ‘eye stalks’ only a little shorter than width of frons; antennae yellow, shorter than face, third segment apically rounded, arista plumose; face pale yellow, unspotted; frons yellow; occiput yellow except for a blackish brown band near upper margin. Setae black: 1 pair frontals; 2 pairs orbitals; ocellars vestigial; genal present; postoculars thin and black.

Thorax mostly fulvous to red-brown, paler on pleura, postpronotal lobes and notopleural calli; scutum with a short black stripe bordering postpronotal lobe and black dorsolateral and lateral vittae, each pair connected posteriorly; pleura with a narrow black stripe from below postpronotal lobe along dorsal margin of anepisternum to wing base. Scutellum and mediotergite fulvous with blackish brown lateral margins. Setae black: 1 postpronotal, 2 notopleurals, 1 supra-alar, 1 postalar, 1 infra-alar, dorsocentrals slightly anterior to line of postalars, presutural and prescutellar acrostichals present, 2 anepisternal, 1 weak anepimeral, 1 katepisternal; 3 pairs scutellars, the

middle pair weak. Legs dark fulvous to reddish brown, the tibiae darker; fore femora posteroventrally setose; mid tibia with an apical black spine.



**Figs 1-2.** *Themara andamanensis* sp. n., label data: (1) holotype male; (2) paratype female. [Type determination labels added subsequently]. © Natural History Museum, London.

Wing (Fig. 3) largely brown, with a broad yellow longitudinal band from wing base filling most of cells  $r_1$  and  $r_{2+3}$  except apex and costal margin; a broad yellow-brown streak in cell  $dm$  just crossing DM-Cu crossvein into cell  $m$ ; base of cell  $cu_1$  broadly pale yellow-brown; cell  $r_{4+5}$  with a distinct, oval white spot just beyond line of DM-Cu crossvein and below an anteriorly directed undulation in vein  $R_{4+5}$ . Pterostigma as long as cell  $c$ ; veins  $R_1$ ,  $R_{4+5}$ ,  $M$  and  $Cu_1$  setose; vein  $R_{2+3}$  undulate, curving sharply towards costa but straightening at apex to meet costa at an acute angle; R-M crossvein placed below apex of pterostigma, near outer third of cell  $dm$ ; cell  $bcu$  apically acute.

Abdomen oval, largely fulvous with broad black longitudinal bands anteriorly on tergites II-IV and tergite V black except fulvous posteromedially.

Female (Fig. 5). Length of body (excluding oviscapae) 7 mm, of wing 7.6 mm. Similar to male except wing vein  $R_{2+3}$  straighter, not curving sharply towards costa; tergite VI narrow, fulvous medially, black laterally; oviscapae fulvous and short, about as long as tergite V; aculeus not exposed.



**Figs 3-5.** *Themara andamanensis* sp. n.: (3) holotype male, habitus; (4) male head, dorsal view; (5) paratype female, habitus. © Natural History Museum, London.

*Etymology.* The specific name is derived from the type locality.

*Distribution.* Known only from the Andaman Islands.

*Comments.* *Themara andamanensis* sp. n. appears closest in general appearance to *T. jacobsoni* de Meijere, from Sumatra and associated islands, but differs in the shorter male eye stalks and a different wing pattern, lacking distinct hyaline anterior and posterior indentations in cells sc (pterostigma) +  $r_1$  and cells m and  $cu_{a1}$  respectively. In *T. jacobsoni* the male eye stalks are almost as long as in *T. hirtipes* Rondani, whereas those of *T. andamanensis* are similar in length to those of *T. maculipennis* (Westwood) (see Hancock 2013, 2014). It differs from *T. yunnana* Zia, the only other species of the genus recorded from India, in the presence of male 'eye-stalks' and the very different wing pattern (see David and Ramani 2011).

### The female of *Themara hirsuta* (Perkins, 1938)

*Material examined.* EAST MALAYSIA (SABAH): 1 ♀, N. Borneo, Mt Kinabalu, Mesilau Camp, 1-5.iv.1964, 5,000 ft, Royal Soc. Exped., coll S. Kueh, BM 1964-260 (in BMNH).

The female resembles the male (*cf.* figures 3 in Perkins 1938 and 88a in Hardy 1986) but wing vein  $R_{2+3}$  is not distinctly sinuous, the hyaline indentation in cell  $r_1$  at apex of pterostigma is a broad triangle and the yellowish brown basal indentation in pterostigma extends only faintly across vein  $R_1$  into cell  $r_{2+3}$ . This Bornean species is newly recorded from Sabah, being known previously only from Sarawak.

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